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Baumann Hits RPC Plan For

CPYRGHT

Information Survey

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Charges Privacy Invasion

By HOWARD HUNTZINGER

A Democratic candidate for City Council warned city and county officials Tuesday that a proposal to establish a Columbus Area Information Center would invade the privacy of local citizens.

James L. Baumann, 1434 Lonsdale Rd., said the data processing proposal—termed Project X-501—“smacks with overtones of gestapo and Central Intelligence Agency atmosphere.”

BAUMANN stated he sent letters to County Commissioners, City Council and Mayor Sensenbrenner since the city and county are the two major contributors to the Regional Planning Commission which proposes the data center.

“This proposal . . . needs immediate public exposure as an attempt to invade the privacy which we enjoy as American citizens,” asserted the candidate.

“It is my opinion that the extent of this projected endeavor should cause you to review your support and indeed the purpose of the Regional Planning Commission,” he continued.

AN EAST SIDE resident and South Side businessman, Baumann questioned the real value of such information—who would benefit from it and have access to

The councilmanic candidate asked the city and county officials to familiarize themselves with the proposal and express an opinion of its merits, adding that this is the responsibility of elected officials.

Baumann said a preliminary study of the proposal was called to his attention by a “concerned citizen.”

THE PROPOSAL, asserted Baumann, is the same type of personal information—and perhaps goes further—than the federal government questionnaire rejected last week by City School Supt. Harold H. Eibling.

The project proposes the gathering of data relative to real property, economic and personal data. Baumann says the purpose of the data system is defined “to provide needed, valid and current information that is necessary for better decision-making for

management as well as performing normal office operations (such as tax billing and check writing).”

Much of the information to be sought already is available in public records, Baumann said.

“HOWEVER,” he continued, “I cannot understand why a planning body would concern itself with literally hundreds of personal data questions which even included scars and physical handicaps, political data, police and service records, court records, employment and health and educational information, income tax data and even data concerning your vehicles, firearms and pets.”

Baumann says he fears this is “police state and black mail type information.”